

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 15 (a so-called...), with the following rewritten paragraph:

--A so-called LD (laser diode) pumped solid-state laser, which has a laser diode (hereinafter, abbreviated as LD) with higher absorption efficiency to a laser medium than a lamp and is small, highly efficient and has a long lifetime as [[an]] a pumping light source, has drawn attention in recent years as [[an]] a method of pumping ~~method by~~ light from a solid-state laser medium such as an Nd:YAG. Particularly, an LD-pumped solid-state laser apparatus has been developed in recent years, which emits a laser output reaching a kilowatt by using a few hundred LD's in one resonator.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 25 (It is believed...), bridging page 2, as follows:

--It is believed that the LD has a more than ten times longer lifetime ~~longer~~ than the lamp ~~more than ten times and it~~ and the LD can be continuously used for as much as 10,000 hours. However, the lifetime is an average and output from some LD's reduces after ~~use for about~~ a few thousand hours, and it is difficult to completely recognize and remove them at initial LD selection. Further, since the LD reduces its lifetime

considerably due to disturbance disturbances and changes in the external environment, such as static electricity, electric [[surge]] surges from a power source, return light, dust, gas and condensation, it is necessary to detect a [[light]] quantity of a pumping light pumped from the LD and know a degree of its degradation by some means in order to improve the reliability of the laser apparatus and to deal with a failure quickly.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 18 (Further, a method...), as follows:

--Further, a method has conventionally been used in which a laser oscillation light emitted outside the resonator from an output mirror that composes a solid-state laser resonator is partially split or the photo-detector measures the energy of the oscillation light leaked from a mirror other than the output mirror, [[and]] thus controlling the laser output or detecting the degradation of LD.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 25 (Furthermore, a method...), bridging page 3, as follows:

--Furthermore, a method has also been proposed, which detects fluorescence intensity or fluorescence distribution in a direction along a laser oscillation optical axis or on its extension. Fig. 1 and Fig. 2 show the method described in

Japanese Patent Laid-Open (unexamined) No. 2000-269576. ~~In the gazette, a~~ A method is proposed [[that]] in which a monitoring mirror splits fluorescence emitted from a solid-state laser rod along the laser oscillation optical axis, a CCD camera transforms its pumping distribution into an image for observation, and a drive current for each LD is adjusted individually based on the image to unify the pumping distribution. The prior art will be described as follows.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 26, line 24 (As shown in...), bridging page 27, as follows:

--As shown in Fig. [[5]] 4, a plurality of laser diode devices 20a to 20h (each output of about 40W) are disposed along the longitudinal direction of an Nd:YAG laser rod 10 (Nd concentration: 0.7%at, rod diameter: 5cm and rod length: 10cm, for example), and pumping light 40a to 40h (wavelength: 809nm) emitted from the devices is shaped through optical systems 30a to 30h and irradiated on the laser rod 10.--